Online Comment

Application	H16-1062-21
Location	Former Spalding Delivery Office The Crescent Spalding PE11 1AF
Proposal	Change of use of former sorting office to mixed use comprising retail use on ground floor and 9 flats on upper floors, and external alterations.

Name	Spalding & District Civic Society
Address	36 Park Avenue Spalding Lincs PE11 1QX

Date Submitted	21-04-22
For/Against	Objections

We note the changes to the frontage, but is is not clear whether the increased glass area are intended to be actual shop windows or are simply for show, given that the description given is "aluminium shopfront" as opposed to aluminium windows.

This building is on the site of the former Methodist Church whose first salaried Minister was William Booth founder of the Salvation Army. The Church closed in 1955, and was brought by Spalding Urban District Council with the intention of building council offices on the site. In the end that did not proceed and in 1961, construction of this building and the Income Tax Office commenced. They were built by the Ministry of Works, and as buildings for the Crown were not subjected to statutory regulations (page 19, Spalding Guardian, 24 November 1961), the building did not have to meet the planning tests of the day. Both this building and the now demolished tax office were of a standard design found in every town in the country. There are other examples of the theme in the district.

Then as now, Spalding Civic Society had no objection to modern styles of architecture, but considered that the surroundings needed to be taken into account. That is still our position.

This application is for more than simply a change of use. It is for a new development. It needs to be considered in that light. Would a new development of this design be permitted in the conservation area, given the nature of surrounding buildings on The Crescent?

Our comments of 4 January stand, and we urge that the applicant be asked to come back with a design that is sympathetic to its surroundings and truly enhances the conservation area.